

News Release

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BC FERRIES RETURNS AS PRESENTING SPONSOR OF PRISMA FESTIVAL IN POWELL RIVER

VICTORIA –BC Ferries returns for the fourth year as the presenting sponsor of the 2019 Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy (PRISMA) Festival in support of bringing talented and enthusiastic music students and festivalgoers to the Powell River community. The Festival is being held in Powell River from June 17 to 29, 2019.

Festival highlights include the Symphony Evening Concert on June 21; PRISMA on the Beach on June 22; Chamber Music Concert on June 27 and Symphony Evening Concert on June 28. On June 29, festivalgoers on board the Salish Eagle will be treated to live music from Cathy Reckenberg and the Ceilish Fiddlers on the 9:55 a.m. Symphony Cruise as they make their way from Comox to the Matinee Concert in Powell River.

"Helping to spotlight the beautiful coastal community of Powell River to the thousands of festivalgoers who attend each year fits BC Ferries' vision of connecting communities," said Janet Carson, BC Ferries' Vice President of Marketing and Customer Experience. "The PRISMA festival also provides the opportunity to connect the Powell River community with young musicians and international talent."

Established in 2012, the PRISMA Festival and Academy attracts internationally-renowned guest artists and top music students worldwide. PRISMA draws more than 5,000 concertgoers from B.C. and beyond to daily musical events, symphony and chamber music concerts, master classes and student recitals. The PRISMA Festival Orchestra, the highlight of the festival, performs three full symphony concerts.

"We are honoured to have the continued support of BC Ferries as our presenting sponsor," said Arthur Arnold, founding Music Director of PRISMA. "With each passing year, this relationship deepens and we explore new possibilities. For example, this June will mark the first time in PRISMA's history that our students will arrive and depart using the Sunshine Coast route. It's a voyage too many of us take for granted, but to see it through the eyes of 80 students from 17 countries will be a touching reminder of how beautiful marine travel can be."

BC Ferries wants customers to know June 29 will be a popular travel day between Comox and Powell River with the festival and Canada Day long weekend. We expect heavy traffic on the 9:55 am sailing from Comox and 5:15 pm sailing departing Powell River that day. To make an advance booking or check schedule information, visit bcferries.com. To book your PRISMA Festival Getaway in Powell River or find out more about BC Ferries Vacations packages on the

Sunshine Coast, visit <u>bcferries.com/vacations</u>. For information on the 2019 PRISMA Festival visit <u>prismafestival.com</u>.

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